CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 11 AUG 51

SUBJECT North Korean Mineral Production, 1945 - 1950

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. 25X1A

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

[redacted]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1X

SOURCE [redacted]

1. One of the elements of the Soviet occupation program after the war in North Korea was increased output from mines. All mines were ordered to continue producing at their former rate, and increase of production were ordered at Kumhak-tong (127-42, 38-30), Komdok (128-21, 40-36), Songchon (126-22, 39-18), Koksan (126-30, 38-57), and Songhung (126-28, 39-06) mines. With Soviet assistance, Komdok, Koksan, Songchon, Unchang-dong (125-08, 40-07), and Suan (125-22, 38-47) mines were developed and expanded.

2. The economic planning program of 1947 emphasized the increase of gold and silver production and resulted in an output 50 to 70 percent higher than that of the previous year. Other mine products went up 100 to 300 percent as of the same period. To aid in the mining of barium sulphate, talc, monazite, beryl, lead, zinc, graphite, tungsten, magnesite, and columbite, materials were shipped from the USSR to North Korea, including wire rope, compressors, surveying instruments, copper wire, electric fittings, rock drills, research instruments and laboratory equipment, borers, processing chemicals, iron pipe, etc.

3. From 1948 to 1949, the planned economic program increased production about 50 percent. Beginning in 1949, the mining of rare and strategic minerals was stressed, and monazite mines such as those of Sinchon, Cholsan, and Taedong were developed.*

4. Among the mines in operation are the following, and their principal products, most of which were sent to the USSR:

   a. Magnesite (MgO_3 -- CaO 0.08, MgO 40.15, SiO_2 0.48)
   Yongyang-ni (128-51, 40-54) mine, Puktuil-myon, Tanchon County, South Hamgyong; MgO_3 to 30 percent in unrefined ore.
   Namgye (128-50, 41-13) mine, Namgye-myon, Hyesan County, North Hamgyong; MgO_3 content 38 percent in unrefined ore.

   b. Barite ($BaSO_4$ 97.28, Fe_2O_3 0.60, CaO 0.02 MgO 0.08, SiO_2 2.02)
   Kumhak-tong mine, Hakpang-ni, Changdo-myon, Kumhwa County.

Document No. 2
No Change in Class. ☑
☐ Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S C
Auth: HR 70-2

25X1A

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

STATE	NAVY	NSRB	[redacted]
ARMY	AIR	FBI	

RETURN TO RECORDS CENTER
IMMEDIATELY AFTER USE
JOB 54-306 BOX 446

c. Lead and Zinc
Komdok mine.
Songchon mine, Changnim-ni, Changnim County, South Pyongan.

d. Graphite (Volatile metal 1.78, C 86.08, Al2O3 12.10, Ni 0.04).
Kaechon (125-55, 39-46) mine, Non-ni, Puk-myon, Kaechon County; amorphous, C 85 percent.
Tongbang (126-42, 40-59) mine, Sungbang, Kongin-myon, Kanggye County; crystaline, C 83 percent.
Chonghak (128-58, 40-51) mine, Chonghak-myon, Haksong County, North Hamgyong; crystaline, C 80 percent.

e. Talc: Kumhak-tong mine.

f. Tungsten (WO_3 70, FeO 11.19, MnO 2.09, FeOMno 5.1).
Koksan mine, Kanak-ni, Iu-myon, Koksan County; WO_3 60 percent, associated with quartz, molybdenite, pyrite, zinc-blend, and fluorite.
Mt. Diamond mine, Sinpung (128-05, 38-43), Oekumgang, Uiyang, Kangwon; WO_3 60 percent.

g. Mica (associated with feldspar, dolomite, and granite).
Ponyon mine (?Pohyon, 129-11, 41-03), Kilchu County.

h. Molybdenum (molybdenite and galena).
Suan (128-22, 38-42) mine, Manchong-ni, Taeo-myon, Suan County.

i. Special mines:
Holgol (126-27, 38-52) mine, unrefined ore has 0.2 percent WO_3.
Hard mica, Anak (125-30, 38-30), Sinchon (125-30, 38-21), Pyoksong (125-34, 38-20) area of Hwanghae.
Molybdenite in various areas around the Suan mine.

5. Production of important minerals, by year, was as follows:**

Mine	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950***
Kumhwa (barium sulphate)	6,000	1,397	4,224	4,300	6,500	3,600
Kumhwa (talc)	1,200		2,880	2,600	2,200	1,600
Kaechon (graphite)	13,000	12,490	13,034	25,190	40,000	35,000
Tongbang (graphite)	4,450	3,485	4,856	4,800	6,200	5,000
Chonghak (graphite)	1,893	58	957	1,224	624	1,780
Yongyang (magnesite)	63,000	6,382	16,512	25,218	92,000	21,624
Koksan (tungsten	950	1,189	1,908	1,979	2,150	920
Ponyon (mica)	100	70	116	138		
Suan (molybdenum)			20	30	120	150
Songchon (zinc)		863	1,524	1,527	1,600	1,600
(lead)	504	220	903	1,346	1,800	1,500
Komdok (zinc)	1,625	813	2,594	3,600	4,700	2,850
(lead)	1,625	813	2,594	3,600	4,700	2,850
Songhung (gold)		1,293	1,518	1,752	2,000	1,344
(copper)	651	556	565	538	620	600

6. Shipments to the USSR were handled by several methods. Gold and silver were sent through the North Korean Central Bank. According to one bank clerk, these shipments were classified as "barter" and amounted to a billion dollars.**** Material was handled at night, and was sent through North Korean Labor Party cells; the amount transmitted at each meeting was not known, and no details of forwarding the gold were given.

7. The amount of export to the USSR in comparison to the amount produced is shown by years as follows:*****

Mineral	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Barium - produced	6,000	1,597	4,222	4,300	6,500	3,600
Sulphate - exported			8,000	4,000	6,000	3,000
Talc - produced	1,200		2,380	2,600	2,200	1,600
exported			2,500	2,100	2,500	1,200
Magnesite - produced	9,500	6,387	16,512	25,218	92,000	113,624
exported		5,000	5,000	10,000	100,000	50,000
Graphite - produced	13,000	12,034	13,034	25,190	40,000	35,000
(amorph) - exported		10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000
Graphite - produced	7,273	3,547	6,668	6,864	8,324	7,792
(crystal) - exported		5,000	6,000	6,000	5,000	5,000
Tungsten - produced	970	1,189	1,908	1,993	2,195	960
exported		1,000	2,000	1,900	2,100	500
Mica - produced	100	70	116	138	mine closed	
exported		50	50	150		
Molybdenite - produced			20	30	120	150
exported		50		13	30	
Lead - produced	3,972	1,699	6,079	8,786	10,270	8,035
exported		4,000	5,000	8,000	9,000	7,000
Zinc - produced	1,625	1,676	4,257	5,518	7,200	5,370
exported		2,000	4,000	4,000	6,000	4,000

25X1X * [redacted] Comment. A discussion of monazite mining in North Korea was given in [redacted] 25X1A

25X1X ** [redacted] Comment. 1950 figures are as of 31 August.

25X1X *** [redacted] Comment. The unit of production here was not given.

25X1X **** [redacted] Comment. This is as received in English. The period covered was not stated, nor how the figures were arrived at.

25X1X ***** [redacted] Comment. Figures in this paragraph do not entirely agree with those of paragraph 5. Since no specific source for either set of figures was supplied, the discrepancies cannot be resolved.